

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029678

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 OIC-04 ACDA-19 DODE-00

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, US

SUBJECT: NATO CONSULTATIONS

REF: USNATO 279; USNATO 344

1. UK EMBASSY COUNSELOR WILBERFORCE, IN CALL ON DEPTOFF FEBRUARY 12, CONVEYED CURRENT UK THINKING ON NAC/ POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS ON NON-NATO AREAS.

2. NOTING THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION IN ALLIANCE DIALOGUE OVER US INITIATIVE, WILBERFORCE ATTRIBUTED PART OF THE DIFFICULTY TO CHOICE OF TERMINOLOGY. FROM EUROPEAN VIEWPOINT, TERM "SENIOR OFFICIALS" WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO "POLITICAL DIRECTORS," WHICH CONNOTES AN UNINTENDED PARALLEL WITH EC CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH HAVE BEEN DISPARAGING US PROPOSAL AS BACK-DOOR ATTEMPT TO GET VIA SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 029678

NATO WHAT WE WOULD NOT GET DIRECTLY WITH EC. DEPTOFF

DENIED ANY CONNECTION, EMPHASIZING WE SEEK IMPROVED CONSULTATIONS IN NATO, BUT NOT TO DETRIMENT OF EC NINE CONSULTATIONS. DEPTOFF ALSO UNDERLINED THAT WE ENVISAGE NAC MEETING REINFORCED BY ATTENDANCE OF APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS. BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR

LUNCH, WHILE WELCOME, WOULD NOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR A MORE STRUCTURED EXCHANGE.

3. WILBERFORCE STATED LATEST INDICATION IS THAT FRENCH WILL NOT ATTEND BELGIAN LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 28, BUT THAT UK IS NEVERTHELESS PREPARED TO ATTEND WORKING SESSIONS AS WELL AS LUNCH. WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THIS SUPPORT, DEPTOFF POINTED OUT THAT US EMPHASIS ON REINFORCED NAC FORMAT IS DESIGNED TO MEET FRENCH OBJECTION TO CREATING NEW INSTITUTIONS AND TO INDUCE THEM TO PARTICIPATE. PRECEDENT EXISTS, HE SAID, IN NAC SESSIONS INVOLVING ALSO SENIOR OFFICIALS PURSUANT TO US PROPOSAL FOR DEPUTY FONMIN MEETINGS, IN WHICH FRANCE WAS REPRESENTED BY PERMREP.

4. WILBERFORCE NOTED THAT DAVIGNON HAD PROPOSED THAT EC EIGHT DEVELOP COMMON POSITION IN ADVANCE, BUT RESPONSE AMONG EIGHT HAS BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE. UK VIEWS SUCH AN EFFORT AS INAPPROPRIATE IN THIS CONTEXT, AND LIKELY TO PRODUCE DISCORD RATHER THAN HARMONY WITHIN THE EC AND NATO.

5. ON AGENDA, WILBERFORCE STATED THAT, WHILE UK WANTS TO BE FLEXIBLE, US SUGGESTIONS CIRCULATED IN BRUSSELS SEEM OVERLY AMBITIOUS AND HAVE RAISED CONCERN AMONG SOME EUROPEANS THAT US IS SEEKING TOO BROAD A DISCUSSION. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO START WITH TRADITIONAL NATO SUBJECTS, AVOIDING ESPECIALLY SUCH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AS RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, WHERE EC WOULD FEEL NEED TO DEVELOP A COMMON POSITION IN ADVANCE. DEPTOFF AGREED THAT MORE FAMILIAR EAST-WEST ISSUES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR FIRST MEETING, AND SPECULATED THAT PERMREPS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS, AT LEAST ON FRINGES, OTHER CURRENT ISSUES SUCH AS NATO DECLARATION. HE ADDED,  
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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 029678

HOWEVER, THAT JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SOON IN SOME NATO FORUM, IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE REGIONS.

6. WILBERFORCE MENTIONED THAT JOHN KILLICK, FCO SUPERINTENDING UNDER SECRETARY FOR WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS, WILL BE THE "SENIOR OFFICIAL" WHO WOULD USUALLY REPRESENT

THE UK AT "POLITICAL DIRECTORS" CONSULTATIONS, RATHER THAN OLIVER WRIGHT, WHO SITS WITH THE EC NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS.

7. TURNING TO CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THE NATO

AREA, WILBERFORCE PRESENTED UK POSITION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS PULL-BACK FROM IDEAS FLOATED BY PECK AT PERMREPS LUNCH LAST MONTH. IN VIEW OF DANGER OF LEAKS AND DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON MOST SUBJECTS OF INTEREST, BRITISH NOW BELIEVE IT UNREALISTIC TO TRY ANYTHING APPROACHING CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THIS AREA. THEY PROPOSE MERELY THAT NAC COMPILE AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE LIST OF SITUATIONS WHICH "COULD DEVELOP TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ALLIANCE," AND THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS KEEP THESE UNDER REGULAR NATIONAL REVIEW. IN THE FACE OF AN ACTUAL DEVELOPING CRISIS IN ONE OF THESE AREAS, ANY MEMBER COULD THEN REQUEST URGENT CONSULTATIONS IN THE NAC, POSSIBLY REINFORCED BY EXPERTS. BRITISH WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, INTEND TO PRECLUDE POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF SITUATIONS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGREED LIST. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRITISH THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT, NOTING THAT IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT IN THE PAST TO GET AGREEMENT TO CONSULTATIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA. DEPTOFF DREW ON PARA 5 OF STATE 5066 IN DESCRIBING POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP OF REGIONAL EXPERTS WORK TO EFFORTS TO BROADEN CONSULTATIONS.

8. IN CONCLUSION, WILBERFORCE COMMENTED THAT WILL TO CONSULT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MECHANICS OF CONSULTATION, AND BRITISH ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT US CONTRIBUTIONS. DEPTOFF STATED HOPE THAT OTHER ALLIES WOULD RECIPROCATE, SO AS TO KEEP MOMENTUM GOING. KISSINGER

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PAGE 04 STATE 029678

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